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Twenty-Third Annual Report

of the

Jamaica Plain Friendly Society

1897

BOSTON

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

JAMAICA PLAIN FRIENDLY SOCIETY

1897.

NEWS PRINTERY,
JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.
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Twenty-third Annual Report

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Jamaica Plain Friendly Society—1897.

We who have worked longest on the Case Committee find that the longer we are connected with the Friendly Society, the more we are impressed with its usefulness, and the absolute need of such an organization in this community. Although much time and labor are required, we feel that both are well spent, and therefore that the work is its own reward. We especially enjoy the fact that we who make the investigation, and give the needed sympathy to a family in distress, are also the dispensers of the needed help. In all other ways we follow closely the ideas and methods of the Associated Charities, although, as ours is the older organization, we have never made ourselves one of its branches, preferring to keep our own independence. We, however, carefully report to that society the cases which we investigate or take charge of, and receive, in return, information in regard to everything which concerns our district. We further keep up our connection with the central organization by an annual contribution to its treasury for the purpose of registration, as a just return for the important aid which we obtain from it. One of our most important means of usefulness is this connection through our society of our cases with other charities, a connection which those who need it do not generally know how to make for themselves. We are also in constant communication with the overseers of the poor, and the dispensary physician.

The winter of '96-7 has brought no unusual experiences to the workers in the Friendly Society, but there have been among the families visited some who have needed an unusual amount of help and care. Widows with young children always appeal especially to our sympathies, and in those cases we can give more generous aid than can be given to a woman who may be suffering just as much, but who may have an intemperate husband, who does nothing for his family. Two cases this winter of young widows with children have been partially cared for by the city, but our society has provided visitors, and necessary help in food and clothing has been occasionally given. The visitors also have tried to find work for these women, and in one case the baby was placed in the Infant Asylum, without which relief the mother would hardly have been able to earn anything.

Another family was that of a man under 40, who, earning $3.50 a day as a mason, was suddenly struck down by paralysis while at his work, and who, although he rallied from the first shock, will probably never be able to earn a dollar for the support of his wife and five children. In connection with the St. Vincent de Paul Society we have aided this family and supplied the wife with work.

Although this has not been considered a very hard winter, still there have been many cases where men have been out of work, apparently from no fault of their own, and it has been very difficult to get work for them, although occasionally our efforts have heen rewarded with success. While we feel that we must be very careful about aiding families where there is a man able to work, still, occasionally temporary aid must be given to keep the family from severe suffering.

Still more difficult are the cases where the distress and need come from drink, and many are the discussions over

such cases, which occur every year, and which need to be considered individually, although the stories have a sad similarity. In one such case, which has been long known to us, and which has needed great care from the visitor, the wife has now separated from the miserable husband, some of the children have been placed in a home, and it is possible for us to do something for the comfort of the poor woman, who is nearly broken down by her years of trouble and ill-treatment.

The difficulty of getting work for both men and women is a very pressing one to our visitors, and it is a great help when friends in the community, who need workers, apply for them at our rooms. We may not always be able to fit the need, but often we can bring people together in this way, so that it is a mutual benefit.

The Home Savings Society, organized in April, '96, has been under the efficient care of Miss Ingalls, who gives us the following report :

" There have been 22 different depositors. The largest amount collected in one month was $11.80; the largest sum saved by one person, $21.50. The total amount collected during the year is $84.57 ; the amount withdrawn, $49.50.

" The interest of a few in this method of saving encourages us to continue the society another year, with the hope that others will become interested in laying aside for future need a small sum each week."

We cannot conclude the report of this year's work without speaking of the pleasant relations between our visitors and Dr. Beaumont, the late dispensary physician, whose death occurred so suddenly and unexpectedly during the past winter.

In conclusion, we wish to thank all those in this community who have aided us by the gift of money, fuel, half-worn clothing, and boots, new and old.

We trust that all our contributors will understand that the surplus in our treasury is a necessity for our work, and not a reason for not needing generous subscriptions. We are always liable to need it. Only a few years ago a large surplus was needed, and used, and without it we should have been forced to make a new appeal for money.

ELLEN C. MORSE,
ALICE P. CARTER,
FANNIE M. HOPKINS,
MARY H. DAVIS,
ANNA R. EDES,
CORNELIA BOWDITCH,
MARIA B. WHEELWRIGHT,
SUSAN L. STEDMAN.

STATISTICS FOR 1896—97.

Families visited,	60
Visits reported,	434
Applicants,	58
New garments given away,	75
Boots and rubbers given away,	87
Women taking sewing,	17
Articles made,	384

But little money has been expended for the material for this work, this having been given by the hospitals for whom most of the sewing has been done.

The Friendly Society's room is in Curtis Hall, South Street. Miss L. T. Blaikie, the agent, is there from ten o'clock to one o'clock every week-day (except Saturdays and holidays), from the first Monday in October to the first Monday in May, and from eleven to twelve o'clock one of the Case Committee is also present. All persons interested are invited to visit the room. Plain garments and sheets and pillowcases are kept for sale, and made to order.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

OCTOBER 1, 1896, to OCTOBER 1, 1897.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand	$ 606.26
Received from subscriptions	1061.68
" " sales	49.78
Returned by Agent	3.77
	$1721.49

EXPENDITURES.

Agent's Salary	$ 300.00
Paid for coal and wood	159.94
" " provisions and milk	145.69
" " boots and shoes	115.50
" by Case Committee for work, etc.	146.28
" for washing and services for the sick	18.44
" " materials	83.42
" " printing	39.50
" " postage	7.05
" " carriage to hospital	2.00
" to Associated Charities for registration	100.00
Balance on hand	603.67
	$1721.49

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. CLARK, *Treasurer.*

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

I certify that I have examined the accounts of E. W. Clark, Esq., Treasurer of the Jamaica Plain Friendly Society, from Oct. 1st, 1896, to October 1st, 1897, and that the same are correctly cast and the payments therein are properly vouched, and that the Treasurer charges himself as of the latter date with six hundred and three dollars and sixty-seven cents (603.67).

CHARLES B. CUMINGS, *Auditor.*

BOSTON, October 4th, 1897.

Officers of the Jamaica Plain Friendly Society, 1897—98.

President: Rev. S. U. Shearman.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Charles P. Bowditch, Mr. Charles B. Cumings, Dr. Arthur P. Perry, Rev. Charles L. Morgan, Rev. Ralph M. Hunt, Mr. W. Henry Winslow.

Secretary: Miss Caroline E. Chickering.

Treasurer: Mr. E. W. Clark.

Assistant Treasurer: Miss Cornelia Bowditch.

Executive Committee: Dr. George Faulkner *(Chairman)*, Mrs. R. W. Wood, Mrs. H. D. Morse, Mrs. A. D. Weld, Rev. Charles F. Dole, Dr. J. C. Stedman.

Auditor: Mr. Charles B. Cumings.

Case Committee.

Miss Ellen C. Morse, *Chairman*, 60 Burroughs Street.
Mrs. W. S. Carter, *Secretary*, 42 Eliot Street.
Mrs. George J. Hopkins, Park Place.
Miss Mary H. Davis, 9 Revere Street.
Mrs. Robert T. Edes, 58 Eliot Street.
Miss Cornelia Bowditch, Pond Street.
Miss Maria B. Wheelwright, Glen Road.
Mrs. Charles Harrington, 57 Orchard Street.

VISITORS.

Miss L. T. Blaikie, 86 Elm Street.
Miss Cornelia Bowditch, Pond Street.
Mrs. W. S. Carter, 42 Eliot Street.
Miss C. E. Chickering, 615 Centre Street.
Miss Mary H. Davis, 9 Revere Street.
Mrs. Robert T. Edes, 58 Eliot Street.
Miss Kate Folsom, Lakeville Place.
Mrs. W. H. Forbes, 233 Chestnut Avenue.
Mrs. Charles Harrington, 57 Orchard Street.
Mrs. George J. Hopkins, Park Place.
Miss E. E. Ingalls, 14 Myrtle Street.
Mrs. James Lee, Story Place.
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Mrs. A. D. Weld, Forest Hill Street.
Miss K. R. Wendell, 37 Greenough Avenue.
Miss Maria B. Wheelwright, Glen Road.
Miss Caroline Williams, 11 Warren Square.
Miss Clara E. Williams, 11 Warren Square.

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Mr. E. W. Clark, 684 Centre Street.
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Rev. Charles F. Dole, Roanoke Avenue.
Dr. H. C. Ernst, 8 Greenough Avenue.
Dr. George Faulkner, 29 Greenough Avenue.
Mr. George W. Fowle, 212 Chestnut Avenue.
Dr. E. P. Gerry, 2 Everett Street.
Dr. Arthur P. Perry, 60 Elm Street.
Rev. S. U. Shearman, Parley Vale.
Dr. J. C. Stedman, 116 Sedgwick Street.
Mr. W. Henry Winslow, 4 Perkins Street.
Mr. Wm. Rooney, Burroughs Street.
Dr. R. E. Jameson, 28 Eliot Street.

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Mrs. R. W. Wood
Mrs. Stephen F. Woodman
Mrs. John Wylde
Mrs. James Yeames
Mrs. A. Zoebrisch

*Deceased.

TAKE NOTICE.

Subscriptions are collected by The Friendly Society's authorized solicitors beginning in November. A prompt and generous response to their calls is hoped for, as the Society is entirely dependent upon these annual subscriptions.